

THE WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

February 3, 2010

The Honorable Lena Taylor, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance
Reform, and Housing
Room 223 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

RE: Statement to be Distributed to Committee Members for the February 4,
2010 Hearing on 2009 Assembly Bill 269/Senate Bill 219.

Mme. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

With nearly 11,000 members, the Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) is the state's largest law enforcement group. Our mission is to protect and promote public safety, as well as the interests of the dedicated men and women who serve to provide it. The WPPA genuinely appreciates this opportunity to offer our enthusiastic **SUPPORT** of Assembly Bill 269 and Senate Bill 219, or the Police Protection Bill.

Under current law, an individual who injures an officer while attempting to flee that officer can only be charged with a serious offense if the prosecutor can prove that the injury was intentional. Because the intentionality of this offense is difficult to legally demonstrate, serious charges are almost never brought against an individual that injures an officer under these circumstances. Assembly Bill 269 and Senate Bill 219 correct this problem and would hold people accountable for injuries that would not have occurred but for their effort to escape an arrest.

The author, Edmund Burke, once wrote "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Well, the good men and women of law enforcement answer that call to action each and every day, and it is through their policing efforts that we enjoy communities that are safe and secure.

We as a society ought to do our very best to acknowledge the challenges and dangers that are intrinsic to the law enforcement profession. Officers are consistently asked to do more with less, and the Police Protection Bill effectively recognizes the increasing level of danger that they must confront.

Causing harm to a law enforcement officer is a serious crime, and ought to have serious consequences. The Police Protection Bill will accomplish this, thereby helping to protect those brave men and women who serve to protect us. Assembly Bill 269 and Senate Bill 219 represent sound public policy, and the WPPA respectfully urges this committee to approve this legislation quickly.

On behalf of the nearly 11,000 WPPA members who help make Wisconsin a safe place in which to live, work, and raise a family, I thank you for your time and your consideration.

Respectfully,

THE WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION


James L. Palmer, II
Executive Director

